



# FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC.

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*"As often as you did it to one of the least of My brothers and sisters, you did it to Me." Matt. 25:40*

[www.FoodForThePoor.org](http://www.FoodForThePoor.org)

2018 FEB 22 A 10:40

February 14, 2018

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
FEB 22 2018

RE: Docket RM 2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Food For The Poor we urge the Commission to reconsider the proposed rate increases for nonprofit organizations. Our organization relies on the United States Postal Service to raise funds and to communicate with our donors and supporters.

Food For The Poor is the second largest international nonprofit organization in the United States of America (Chronicle of Philanthropy – 2017). We deliver aid to 17 countries in the Caribbean and Latin America and we are the largest suppliers of charitable aid to all of these countries.

The Postal Service plays a vital role in supporting the philanthropic sector. For Food For The Poor it is the primary method we use to communicate with our supporters and raise the funds needed to carry out our mission.

Despite false rumors that direct mail fundraising is dead, for 2017 that department brought it net cash revenue that was just short of 50% of the entire net revenue of the organization. Our other 13 fundraising departments combined contributed just slightly above the net revenue acquired by our direct mail program.

We have grave concerns about the negative impact the proposed rate increases – substantially above the rate of inflation – will have on our ability to accomplish our mission. If adopted as proposed, these rate increases will force our organization to reduce mail volume which will inevitably result in reduced revenue, and in turn, will force us to reduce the services.

In Haiti alone where one of every 14 children do not live to see the age of five because of lack of food, we have 3,600 missionaries that depend on us to save the lives of the children to whom they minister. How could we explain to them that they will have to choose now which children they will save and which will have to do without? Is it fair to have anyone make that choice?

We believe the current rate setting system where postal rates are tied to the Consumer Price Index should be maintained. It has succeeded in generating the funds necessary for the Postal Service to meet its ongoing operational needs, while also providing those that rely on the Postal Service with a stable and predictable rate structure. This is critical to our organization's ability to continue to use and rely on the mail.

How would we be able to budget for the following year with the threat of precipitous increases looming over our heads?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we appreciate your review and consideration on behalf of our organization.

For the poor,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angel A. Aloma". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angel A. Aloma  
Executive Director